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CIRCULAR TO THE PATRONS

OF

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THE BOWDITCH LIBRARY;

WITH THE DOCUMENTS

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BEING PRESENTED TO THE

Public Library of the City of Boston,

AUGUST 28, 1858.

BOSTON:
PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON & SON,
22, SCHOOL STREET.
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B. H.

Nov. 28, 1893

CIRCULAR.

THE undersigned, recently proprietors of the Bowditch Library, beg leave to lay before you the following statements: —

Immediately after our father's decease, twenty years ago, we made his library public; and it has been so until the present time. Permit us to say, that your donations, since his death, have been of great value; and we thank you sincerely for all of them.

Very recently, the City Government of Boston have been compelled to open a new street, directly through the site of the building, where hitherto we have preserved the library. As no suitable building could be procured for the reception of the books, and as we desired to place them in a safe spot as a perpetual monument of his scientific labors, we decided to give the entire collection to the Public

Library of the City of Boston. This library has recently been established by the City Government, aided by the liberality of Joshua Bates, Esq., of London.

By the annexed correspondence, you will see that the books have been transferred, and that the City has accepted the trust. May we hope, that the same reasons that hitherto have induced you to send to the Bowditch Library your various publications, may lead you to send any Transactions or Memoirs hereafter published to the Bowditch Department of the Public Library of the City of Boston? We believe that there is no place in New England where more care will be taken of them, or where they can be more conveniently consulted, so long as the City exists.

With renewed thanks for your great and repeated acts of kindness to us, we remain very respectfully,

NATHANIEL I. BOWDITCH.
J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH.
HENRY I. BOWDITCH.
WILLIAM I. BOWDITCH.

BOSTON, 8, Otis Place, Sept. 19, 1858.

DOCUMENTS.

Boston, Aug. 28, 1858.

Dear Sir, — The children of the late Nathaniel Bowditch, at his decease in 1838, made his library a public one; and donations of scientific works, from Europe and elsewhere, have been since made to it. It now numbers more than 2,500 volumes, and includes several autograph manuscript volumes, illustrative of his scientific labors from his earliest years. The extension of Devonshire Street into Otis Place renders necessary the immediate demolition of the dwelling-house in which it has been hitherto preserved. Under these circumstances, the proprietors of the Bowditch Library present the same to the City of Boston. It has been suggested to us, that, as a collection chiefly of mathematical works, it would be more valuable as a library of reference than of circulation; and therefore, in asking the City to accept it, they would express the wish, that,

if practicable, it should be kept together in some one or more alcoves of the Public Library, and used merely as a *library of reference.*

Respectfully your obedient servants,

NATHANIEL I. BOWDITCH.
J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH.
HENRY I. BOWDITCH.
WILLIAM I. BOWDITCH.

Hon. F. W. LINCOLN, Jun., Mayor of Boston.

CITY OF BOSTON.

In Board of Aldermen, Aug. 30, 1858.

Resolved, That the thanks of the City Council are due, and they are hereby tendered, to the heirs of the late Nathaniel Bowditch, deceased, for the very valuable and interesting collection of volumes recently belonging to their respected father, and which is known as the Bowditch Library; which, together with other volumes, said heirs have presented to the Public Library of the City of Boston: and that the Mayor be desired to return to said heirs a suitable acknowledgment of this donation.

Sent down for concurrence:

Joseph M. Wightman, *Chairman.*

In Common Council, Sept. 2, 1858.

Concurred:

Samuel W. Waldron, Jun., *President.*

Approved, Sept. 3, 1858:

F. W. Lincoln, Jun., *Mayor.*

A true copy. Attest:

Samuel F. McCleary, *City Clerk.*

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL.

Boston, Sept. 6, 1858.

To Messrs. N. I. Bowditch, J. Ingersoll Bowditch,
Henry I. Bowditch, William I. Bowditch.

Gentlemen, — In conformity with the order herewith transmitted, I have the honor to present to you the thanks of the City Council, in behalf of the people of Boston, for the valuable donation of books formerly belonging to your father, and known, since his decease, as the Bowditch Library.

This collection of scientific works will be a valuable addition to our Public Library; and I deem it a very happy circumstance, that the name of your venerated parent will thus be so appropriately associated with this great Institution.

The public spirit which has led you to make this magnificent gift, I know will be highly appreciated by our citizens; and, for myself, I deem it a fortunate event that I should be the humble medium, through which it is to pass to its destination.

I remain yours truly,

F. W. Lincoln, Jun.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL.

BOSTON, Sept. 22, 1858.

To Messrs. N. I. BOWDITCH, J. INGERSOLL BOWDITCH,
HENRY I. BOWDITCH, WILLIAM I. BOWDITCH.

GENTLEMEN, — I enclose a communication from Mr. Everett, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Public Library, from which you will perceive that the BOWDITCH LIBRARY has been placed in their hands, and that they unite with the City Government in the expression of "grateful acknowledgments to the liberal donors."

I remain very truly,

F. W. LINCOLN, Jun.

BOSTON, 18th September, 1858.

His Honor F. W. LINCOLN, Jun., Mayor.

DEAR SIR, — I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 8th instant, enclosing the communication of the children of the late Nathaniel Bowditch, presenting the library of their honored father to the City of Boston.

I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that this highly valuable collection of books has been received at the Public Library; and I have been directed by the Trustees to ask permission to join the City Council in their grateful acknowledgments to the liberal donors.

In respectful compliance with the wish intimated by them, and in entire conformity with their own sense of propriety, the Trustees have directed that the BOWDITCH LIBRARY shall be kept for exclusive use on the spot, as a library of reference; and that it be placed by itself in a conspicuous part of the building, where it will remain, in all coming time, a noble monument to the name of BOWDITCH, — a name second to no other in the annals of American science.

I remain, dear sir, most respectfully yours,

EDWARD EVERETT.

Boston, 21st October, 1858.

Gentlemen, — I have great pleasure, on behalf of the Trustees of the Public Library, in transmitting to you, at their request, an authenticated copy of the resolutions adopted by them in reference to your recent most valuable donation to the City of Boston. The Trustees take the highest satisfaction in this donation, as the sure means of keeping permanently together, for public use, a collection of so much interest to science, and of indissolubly associating with the Public Library the name of your honored father, which confers such distinction in the annals of science, not merely on the city of his adoption, but upon the whole country.

The Trustees regard with peculiar interest the manuscripts of your father, which form so important a part of the collection; exhibiting as they do the early foundations of his scientific eminence, and the astonishing steps of his progress. These manuscripts will be preserved with the care which is due to their almost sacred character.

It is an additional source of gratification to the Trustees, that they feel authorized to regard this important donation as a token of the liberal interest

taken by yourselves in the prosperity of an Institution destined, as they trust, to be an instrument of great public good; and which, had your honored father lived, would, they are confident, have enjoyed his enlightened countenance.

The late day at which this acknowledgment is made is owing, not to any delay on the part of the Trustees (as appears from the date of their resolutions), but to the repeated absences from home, and other pressing demands upon his time, on the part of their presiding officer.

I remain, gentlemen, on behalf of the Trustees, with the highest respect, sincerely yours,

EDWARD EVERETT.

To Messrs. N. I. BOWDITCH, J. I. BOWDITCH,
HENRY I. BOWDITCH, WILLIAM I. BOWDITCH.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, SEPT. 21, 1858.

In Board of Trustees.

The President *pro tem.* presented a letter from the Mayor, with copies of papers relating to a donation of the late Dr. Bowditch's library, made to the City by his sons; whereupon, on motion of Mr. Ticknor, it was —

Ordered, 1st, That the President be requested to address a letter of acknowledgment from the Trustees of the Public Library to the sons of Dr. Bowditch, expressing their sense of the peculiar value of the donation, both from the number and importance of the books given, and from their veneration for the name with which the Bowditch Library is associated.

2d, That the President request the children of the late Dr. Bowditch and their families, if not resident in the City, to visit the Library, and enjoy all its privileges, as if they were citizens.

A true copy from the Records:

C. C. Jewett, *Secretary.*